

T H E

# SECRET LEAGUE

Made between the Late

## KING JAMES



A N D T H E

## FRENCH KING LEWIS XIV

Written in a Letter to an *English* Nobleman, by ----- late Secretary-Interpreter to the Marquess of *Louvois*, who by that means had the perusal of all the *Private Minutes* betwixt *England* and *France* for many Years.

My Lord.

Have once hinted to your Lordship, That both Courts were entered into very close Measures and Designs for to establish themselves to the Prejudice of their Neighbours; as I should have been, and am very sorry to have disappointed your Expectations, after such intimations given you, I do now much rejoyce that I have, tho' I may say, surreptitiously, got the Heads of the League lately made between them; for it is here with our Minutes as with other things, when they are fresh they are more choice and fond of them. And was agreed in general, That our King should join with the French King in a War against *Holland*, both by Sea and Land, but in order to carry the same effectually on, it was more particularly concerted.

I. That they shall both endeavour to draw the Prince of *Orange* to connive at such a War, and to consent to the Abolition of the Penal Laws, and Test against the *Roman Catholics*, with specious Promises of making him Prince of *Holland*, secure his Succession in *England*, and of many other great Proffers and Advantages; but in case he prove stiff, to endeavour to make a total Conquest of that Countrey, and share it between themselves, as was projected in the last *Dutch War*: And whereof, to the best of my remembrance, I have given your Lordship a particular Relation; and then to find out some effectual Experiments, to put the Prince of *Orange* by too of his Succession in *England*.

II. That upon supposal that the Prince shall refuse to comply with them in their projected Designs, that then the *English* and *Scots* Forces shall be recalled out of the *Dutch Service*, and be sent immediatly into that of *France*, to be employed for a time in remoter Campaigns, towards *Spain* or *Italy*, and for want of such Service, in Garisons, for fear they shall turn Tail and revolt, and so the Prince and the States of *Holland* shall be before-hand weakened, and the *French* considerably strengthened.

III. That some Thousands of the *French* choice Men, as of the King's Gentlemen Musqueteers and others, shall insensibly be brought into *England*, if the King finds his occasions so require it, to be mixt with the *English* Troops, under pretence of learning the other a more perfect Discipline.

IV. That they shall both join their Forces at Sea, with all Strength possible.

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V. That a good Body of *French, English, Scots and Irish* Troops shall be on board both the Fleets, that so a Mixture may be made in both, to the it may create less Jealousy; and that the rest of the *English* and other *Br* Troops, that can be conveniently spared from *England*, shall be employed in Land-Armies, against the Republick of *Holland*.

VI. That after the War be once declared, such *French* Refugees as will themselves willing to serve under the *English* Banner against *Holland*, shall en the Revenues which they had in *France*, tho' they shall not be suffered to d there.

VII. That neither side shall desist from the War, till a total Conquest made of the said Country, which they think themselves sure enough of: that when *Holland* shall be subjected by their united Force, there will the no more fear of any Opposition in *England* to prevent the King from raising bitrary Power and the Roman Catholick Religion there, to the same heighth is in *France*, nor from concurring with the *French* King, till he shall obtain Empire for himself.

VIII. That the *French* King shall pay all the *Brittish* Forces in *Flanders* elsewhere, and be content to defray half the Charges of the War, that our with his Pecuniary Assistance may be enabled to hold on the War with Vi and Constancy enough for to make a Conquest; but that afterwards, for a compence, he shall be obliged to assist *France* in any future War with thirty pital Ships, and twenty thousand Men, at half Charges born.

Your Lordship knows, much better to make a Judgment of such a League I can pretend to; and so conclude with subscribing my self,

*My Lord,*

*Your very humble Servant.*

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